

Plays at the Theatres This Week:-:

ACADEMY OF MUSIC.
Monday, Tuesday, matinee and night,
"Polly of the Circus."
Thursday, Friday and Friday matinee,
George Evans' Honey Boy Minstrels.
Saturday, matinee and night, "The Old Homestead."

BIJOU THEATRE.
Ward and Vokes in "The Promoters."
LUBIN THEATRE.
Vaudeville.

A Play With a Moral.

If there are persons who incline to the belief that they should draw their skirts aside pharisaically from folk of the footlights and the sawdust ring, they should forthwith tie themselves to the Academy to-morrow and Tuesday and Tuesday matinee and gather a few hints from Frederic Thompson's mammoth production, "Polly of the Circus."

"Polly of the Circus" is a remarkable study. New York found her interesting; Chicago has stamped its approval as one of the greatest plays ever given



GEORGE EVANS.
With George Evans' Honey Boy Minstrels, at the Academy.

there. There are no high sounding dissertations on love, marriage and divorce; no acute analysis of emotions, just a simple, homely study of an ignorant girl born to the garish life of the circus, thrown by accident into the home of the young village clergyman, awakening to love, to knowledge, to hope and to God.

The vain endeavors of holier-than-thou church women and deacons to separate the girl and the young minister, the glad, self-sacrifice of the girl when it is borne in upon her that his career may be imperiled by her love and the final happy ending of the simple story, after the storm combine to make a more than interesting study.

If you know any one whose tendency is to pass by the other side, any one who is soured by the world, any one who has lost faith, send that one to hear from the lips of "Polly of the Circus" the old, old words, "Whether thou goest, I will go; for thy people shall be my people and thy God my God."

Honey Boy Minstrels.

The Academy of Music will have for its attraction on Thursday and Friday the George Evans Honey Boy Minstrels, an organization best known to Richmond theatre-goers as the Cohan and Harris Minstrels, and which will on this occasion be seen in Richmond for the first time. George Evans, known to most theatre-goers throughout the country as "Honey Boy," Evans will head the organization, and in addition to his dexterity as the star of the attraction, also acts as its proprietor and manager, having recently purchased the Cohan and Harris interests in the attraction. Although a young man, Mr. Evans has for a dozen years past acquired a reputation, not only as a black-face comedian of much prominence, but as a song writer, vaudeville man and writer of sketches as well. He has the advantage of his contemporaries in youth and enthusiasm, and as the proprietor of what is now considered the leading minstrel organization of America, much interest attaches to the engagement in this city.

No minstrel entertainment has ever been presented in America that has met with more approval than this company did upon its first appearance last year. It is promised that this season's program in every respect equals the splendid entertainment provided last season. From a scenic standpoint it is entirely new, and presents seven full stage settings of much beauty and magnificence. The wardrobe, it is asserted, equals in every way the most retentive of modern musical plays, while the company, consisting of seventy-five or more people, is composed



"HAP" WARD, HARRY VOKES, MAE KILCOYNE AND GILBERTIE LEAROCK, IN "THE PROMOTERS," AT THE BIJOU ALL NEXT WEEK.

of the cream of the minstrel profession. The first part, entitled "The Crimson Trellis," reveals such well-known comedians on the end of the semi-circle as John King, Earl Benham, Sam Lee, Clarence Marks and a score of others of lesser renown. The singing features are this year even more attractive than those offered last season. The three principal soloists comprise such well-known minstrel vocalists as Vaughn Comfort, Will Oakland and John Rogers. They are assisted by a chorus of twenty-five singers, especially selected by George M. Cohan, and an orchestra of twenty musicians, under the direction of Edward Brill.

George Evans, who has now become recognized as America's favorite monologue artist and as one of its best and most representative writers of popular songs, appears at the conclusion of the first part for fifteen or twenty minutes in a monologue, inimitable in style and with many local allusions. He also sings one or two songs which are invariably composed for the occasion. In addition to Mr. Evans, the only vaudeville features of the entertainment are a musical act presented by the Musical Foresters, renowned banjo and zitherphone soloists; Bothwell Browne, a female impersonator of rare attainments, appears in the leading prima donna roles, especially written for him by Mr. Cohan. The balance of the entertainment consists entirely of big minstrel acts, conceived and produced by such authorities as James Gorman, George M. Cohan and George Evans, concluding with a brand-new minstrel musical comedy, written expressly for this engagement.



WINFRED ETHERIDGE.
"Old Homestead" Company, at the Academy Saturday, matinee and night.

entertainment by George M. Cohan, entitled "The Firemen's Picnic," for which Mr. Cohan has composed several of his characteristic lively musical numbers.

"The Old Homestead."

Since Denham's Thompson's "The Old Homestead" was first produced at the Boston Theatre in the spring of 1888, it has had numerous imitations, but all have seemed to lack the essential "something" that has made Denham Thompson's play so successful for the past twenty-three years. What is this "something"? It can best be described by the word "vitality." It is full of living characters. Not creatures of the author's imagination, but real, live people, who have "lived, moved and had their being" upon the rock-bound hills of New Hampshire. These people



SCENE FROM "POLLY OF THE CIRCUS," AT THE ACADEMY TO-MORROW AND TUESDAY AND TUESDAY MATINEE.

were there a century ago. They are there to-day. Mr. Thompson has lived among them for years. He knows their idiosyncrasies, their habits and all the attributes of their individual characteristics.

"The Old Homestead" comes to the Academy on Saturday, matinee and night.

Ward and Vokes Again.

Ward and Vokes have celebrated their reunion as companion stars after a season or so of separation by not only giving their friends, the amusement-loving public, an entirely new edition of their laugh-maker, "The Promoters," but also gathering around them an all-star cast. They come to the Bijou Theatre for the week beginning to-morrow night, with matinees Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

With their big organization of fun experts and musical comedy favorites, "The Promoters" is not promised to be

much of a play, but nobody expects anything deep or pretentious in plot or story when a Ward-Vokes engagement is announced. Aside from the usual good work of these old-time favorites, there are two or three other people in the cast who come dangerously close to taking the lion's share of the fun-making. Lucy Daly, as Sherry Holmes, has a role which presents this clever little comedienne in a most favorable light, and it is promised that in the new offering of this year she will be found as winsome as ever.

Law Kelly will be remembered from last year as the linky Professor Dope, and with Casey, his dog, played by acrobatic Eddie Judge, will enliven upon the stage's share of the fun honors. It is this very policy of lib-

er human being, yet possessing a faculty that few have ever been known to have, that Ward-Vokes, a Russian mind-reader, will give demonstrations of his ability to read the mind of any one attending the Lubin engagement. Sitting in the centre of the stage, blindfolded, he tells the name of any one who will assist him by



BOTHWELL BROWNE.
Impersonator of feminine characters, with George Evans' Honey Boy Minstrels, at the Academy April 14-15.

simply spelling it to himself slowly. Press reports pronounce his work really astounding, and with the comedy that naturally arises from such weird performances he promises to prove a tremendous drawing card here.

The Mathes Duo, a novelty singing and dancing pair, will offer a number that is said to be unique in that it is original and their work so unlike the usual run of such numbers.

Miss Carrie will offer her novelty musical oddity, in which she has scored a decided hit. Miss Carrie is a French woman, a musician of rare accomplishment, and her work is done with the assistance of several novel instruments. The pictures will be in full keeping with the usual Lubin standard.

Benjamin Players.

A notable attraction has been selected for the opening week of the engagement of the Benjamin Players at the Academy, the stock season being inaugurated on Monday, April 18. The first bill will be "Because She Loved



Him so," a three-act comedy adapted from the French by William Gillette and played originally by J. E. Cadden and Miss Annie Irish under the management of Charles Frohman. The piece is held at a very high royalty and was secured by Manager Benjamin because it is an ideal opening play, giving every member of the organization an opportunity to score, the various roles all being of great importance in the development of the plot.

The comedy tells the story of a loving old couple who are agonized by the constant petty bickerings and quarrels of their daughter and her newly wedded husband. They conceive the idea that soon quarrels on their part will show the young people the absurdity of the whole thing and so simulate ill feeling to the great astonishment of every one. The ruse works admirably, but is not successful before many amusing complications occur, which result in much smart dialogue and many funny situations.

At the Lubin.

The Lubin will offer in its vaudeville bill for the week to start with the matinee to-morrow afternoon what promises to be one of the most interesting and enjoyable as well as most puzzling vaudeville acts yet seen here. Claiming to be no more than any other

of the Lubin.

The dates of the seventeenth annual music festival of the Wednesday Club are near at hand, and the people of this community will soon have the pleasure of listening to some of the greatest artists on the concert stage. The object of the Wednesday Club—in fact, its "raison d'être"—is that it may provide, if only once each year, a series of concerts, in which some of the greatest masterpieces of music may be adequately performed, with the assistance of famous artists and with orchestral accompaniment. Though often discouraged in its efforts, the Wednesday Club has nevertheless continued to give these annual festivals until they have come to be recognized as affairs of wide musical import, not only to this city, but throughout the State.

The festival of this year promises to be memorable for many reasons. The club has worked faithfully, under the leadership of Tall Esen Morgan, and he has carefully brought his chorus to a very high degree of musical excellence. The active membership is large, the chorus well balanced, and the music to be given especially attractive. The artists are all well known, each one having an enviable reputation in the musical world.

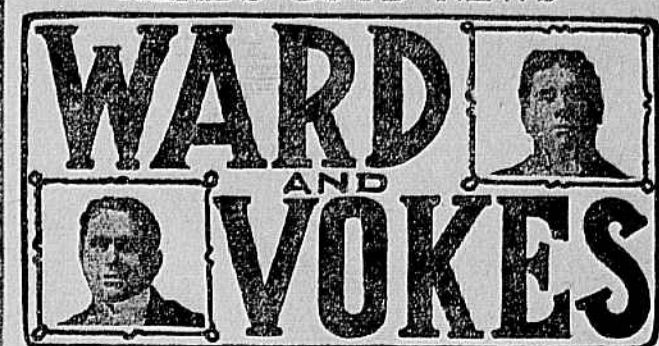
The children's chorus will be a feature, and this large body of little singers, under Director Walter C. Mercer, will present a pleasing and varied matinee program, with the

BIJOU THEATRE

Richmond's Popular Playhouse.

Week Starting Monday—Usual Matinees

HERE'S GOOD NEWS



IN THEIR BIG MUSICAL GIRLY FROLIC
THE PROMOTERS

LUCY DALY as "BETSY BOLIVER" LEW KELLY as "PROF. DOPE" THE SAME LADIES' BAND

COMPANY OF LAUGH EXPERTS
BIG GIRLY, SINGING CHORUS

ACADEMY, To-morrow and Tuesday

MATINEE TUESDAY.

FREDERIC THOMPSON OFFERS AMERICA'S GREATEST DRAMATIC SUCCESS.

Polly of the Circus

BY MARGARET MAYO.

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EXCEPTIONAL CAST. ORIGINAL PRODUCTION.

PRICES: Matinee, 25c to \$1.00; Night, 25c to \$1.50.

ACADEMY, THURSDAY, April 14th 15th

MATINEE FRIDAY.

COHAN & HARRIS Present the World's Leading Minstrel Organization.

GEO. EVANS

The limit of Meritment Honey Boy All New This Year
MINSTRELS

Singing and Dancing Ensemble of 50.
Special Orchestra of 20.

PRICES: Matinee, 25c to \$1.00; Night, 50c to \$1.50.

ACADEMY, Beginning Monday, April 18.

Thursday and Saturday Mals. the first week

NOTE.—Owing to previous bookings at the Academy the company will not appear Wednesday evening.

OPENING OF THE STOCK SEASON

PAUL R. BENJAMIN PRESENTS THE

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BECAUSE SHE LOVED HIM SO

A COMEDY SECOND TO NONE!

AS PLAYED BY J. E. DODSON AND ANNIE IRISH.

Seats Thursday at 9. Book your season orders and secure the same seats each week.

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Famous Russian Mind-Reader—Sensational and Amusing.

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Superior Singing and Dancing Act—Novel and Attractive.

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Continuous performance, 2:30 to 6 and 7:15 to 10:30 P. M.

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